

January 19, 2007

305 West Watson  
Lewistown, MT 59457

Mr. Jack Wells, Chairman—Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education  
House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mr. Wells

I am writing to you on behalf of the Montana State University Fire Services Training School (FSTS). As the Fergus County Fire Training Coordinator, I am responsible for coordinating training opportunities for fire organizations within Fergus County. I have served in this capacity for the last 3 years. The FSTS provides much of the training needed for firefighters who, routinely, are rural America's first line of defense. Funding for the FSTS is critical in keeping our firefighters well trained and safe.

Here is a brief synopsis of trainings provided over the last 3 years: Weapons of Mass Destruction—Awareness, Hazardous Materials-Operations, Hybrid Car Safety, Safety in Wild land Engine Operations, Initial Attack-Size up, Propane Emergencies, Incident Command System, NIMS, and Managing Company Tactical Operations. All of the previously mentioned trainings have been provided **within** Fergus County, and have been available to any fire personnel within the county. Additional training opportunities are also available for those willing to travel to other fire departments within the state. The training opportunities listed here **represent over 1300 hours of instruction provided to nearly 300 responders within Fergus County over the last three years.**

It is my hope that adequate funding and staffing for the Montana State University Fire Services Training School will remain a priority with this legislature. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Don E. Pyrah  
Fergus County Fire Training Coordinator